GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:427
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015
Nuclear Fuel
Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy;Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to increase production of nuclear energy substantially and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has got enough fuel at its disposal to ensure this;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the details of the shortage and the details of import of such nuclear fuel and the countries from which it is likely to be imported;

(d) whether the Government has got an assurance from those countries for continued supply of nuclear fuel for our energy requirements; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government in July 2014 had announced tripling of the then existing capacity of 4780 MW in the next ten years (viz. by the year 2024). Setting up of more nuclear power plants based on both indigenous technologies and with foreign technical cooperation are part of this programme.

(b)&(c) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMD), a constituent Unit under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has carried out survey and exploration of Uranium resulting in establishing 2,25,936t in-situ U3O8 (1,91,594t U) reserves as of June, 2015.

21 nuclear power reactors are under operation in the country with an installed generating capacity of 5780 MWe. Thirteen (13) reactors with a total installed capacity of 3380 MW (excepting one reactor of 100 MW capacity located at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan which is under extended shutdown for techno-economic assessment) are under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and are eligible for imported fuel. To meet requirement of fuel for reactors under IAEA safeguards, agreements for import of uranium are signed with M/s Navoi Mining & Metallurgical Combinat State Company (NMMC), Uzbekistan; M/s JSC TVEL Corporation, Russia; M/s NAC Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan, and M/s CAMECO, Canada.

Eight (8) reactors with a total installed capacity of 2400 MW are fuelled by indigenous fuel. The Government have made efforts to augment indigenous uranium supply by opening of new mines and processing facilities thus narrowing down the demand-supply gap for reactors using indigenous fuel. As a result, there has been a progressive improvement in capacity utilisation of nuclear power plants.

(d)&(e) Contracts have recently been entered into for import of Uranium with M/s. CAMECO, Canada for supply of 2750−3000 MT of Uranium Ore Concentrate during 2015−2020; and M/s. Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan for supply of 5000 MT of Uranium Ore Concentrate during 2015−2019.

*****